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February 05, 2017

2017 FEB 17 A 11: 27

Karen Mouritsen
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office
20 M Street SE, Suite 950
Washington, D.C. 20003

Re: Protest of the March 23, 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Wayne National Forest

Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned March 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe, Noble, and Washington Counties, Ohio (DOI-BLM-Eastern States-0030-2016-0002-EA) ("EA"), pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. I formally protest the inclusion of each of the 21 parcels, covering 1,186 acres in the Wayne National Forest's Marietta Unit in Monroe County, Ohio:

Parcel #: ES-001-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058226 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-002-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058227 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-003-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058228 ACQ

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Parcel #: ES-004-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058229 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-005-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058230 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-006-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058231 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-007-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058232 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-008-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058233 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-009-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058234 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-010-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058235 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-011-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058236 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-012-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058237 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-015-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058240 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-018-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058243 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-020-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058249 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-022-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058251 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-023-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058252 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-025-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058254 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-026-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058255 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-027-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058256 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-028-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058257 ACQ

PROTEST

I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests

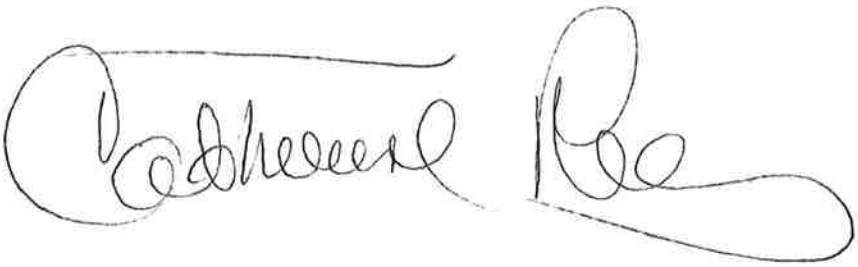
This Protest is filed on behalf of Catherine Rees:

Address: 501 Mill Creek Rd, Marietta, OH 45750

Comments:

Please protect our forest

II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by not completing a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that would evaluate the effects of fracking within the WNF and surrounding areas. The BLM gave no consideration to the cumulative impact on air quality, water usage/ contamination, and climate change created by the increased fracking on private, and now additionally public land or the conflict with multiple use act. Also, the BLM filed an inadequate Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on an outdated Forest Plan from 2006 which did not seriously evaluate fracking, because it was not considered likely or viable at that time.